

# American Community Survey (ACS)

## Why We Ask: Sex

We ask about a person's sex to create statistics about men and women and to present other estimates, such as occupation, by sex. These statistics are used to understand the needs and characteristics of each group and to monitor against discrimination. At the Census Bureau, the sex question wording very specifically intends to capture a person's biological sex and not gender.



3 What is Person 1's sex? Mark (X) ONE box.

☐ Male ☐ Female

**The question as it appears on the 2014 ACS paper questionnaire.** This topic was introduced on the Decennial Census of 1800, and was transferred to the ACS when it replaced the Decennial Census long-form in 2005.

### Examples of Federal Uses

- Required to identify vulnerable populations that may be at disproportionate risk of experiencing limitations in health care access, poor health quality, and suboptimal health outcomes.
- Required to enforce against discrimination in education, employment, voting, financial assistance, and housing.
- Used in many reporting and research tasks to investigate whether there are differences for men and women in education, employment, home ownership, health, income and many other areas of interest to policymakers.

### Examples of Other Uses

State and local agencies use these statistics to understand the needs of people in their community over time. Some social, economic, or housing trends may have different impacts for men and women; understanding these changes may highlight future social and economic challenges. Advocacy groups use these statistics to understand current and future challenges and to advocate for policies that benefit their groups.